

“To recapitulate, then, we find the skull of *Chionis minor* to be a veritable columbo-gallinaceous one, having strongly impressed upon it other characters of some such form as *Hæmatopus* with traces here and there, as we might expect, of larine structure.”

That the Sheath-bills present no such columbo-gallinaceous picture as regards their skeletal structure amounts, in my opinion, to a certainty.

VI.—Obituary.

RICHARD MANLIFFE BARRINGTON.

WE share with all Irish naturalists our great regret at the death of Mr. Barrington of Fassaroe, which took place on September 15 last very suddenly, while driving his motor-car home from Dublin.

Born at Fassaroe, near Bray, in county Wicklow, on May 22, 1849, Barrington was the eighth and youngest son of Edward Barrington. He was educated at home until he entered Trinity College, Dublin, in 1866, where he graduated with honours in 1870 as a Moderator in Experimental and Natural Science. He was called to the bar, but soon abandoned the practice of the law, preferring a more open-air life as a land-valuer, and subsequently managing his farm at Fassaroe.

An admirable example of an all-round naturalist, he will chiefly be remembered for his work on birds, and especially the migrations of Irish birds; but he also wrote extensively on mammals as well as on botanical subjects.

In 1880 he began his regular correspondence with the Irish lighthouse keepers on the migration of birds. The results of these observations were published in the form of annual reports to the British Association for 1881-7.

After 1887 Barrington continued, at great personal expense, the issue of schedules to the light-stations of Ireland for ten years longer, with the result that not merely bald and often unsatisfactory records were furnished by the light-keepers, but, in addition, over two thousand specimens,

generally wings and feet, were forwarded to him for identification. A digest of this work, which continued till 1896, was prepared by Mr. W. Eagle Clarke and published in that year.

Finally, in 1900 a large volume containing the results of all these observations was issued by Barrington under the title of 'The Migration of Birds as observed at Irish Lighthouses and Lightships' (see 'Ibis,' 1900, p. 677).

One important result of the migration enquiry was the wonderful private Fassaroe Museum, in which the rare birds received from lighthouses and the legs and wings of the commoner species were preserved. No fewer than sixteen species were by this means added to the Irish avifauna, viz.:—*Acanthis l. rostrata*, *Emberiza pusilla*, *Calcarius lapponicus*, *Alauda a. cinerascens*, *Calandrella brachydactyla*, *Otocorys alpestris*, *Lanius senator*, *Sylvia curruca*, *Melospiza u. dartsfordiensis*, *Locustella certhiola*, *Acrocephalus streperus*, *A. aquaticus*, *Hypolais polyglotta*, *Phylloscopus superciliosus*, *Ænanthe æ. leucorrhœa*, *Muscicapa parva*; two other species, the American *Juncos hyemalis* and the Antarctic *Chionis alba* recorded by him, the latter not mentioned even in the Appendix of the new B. O. U. List, probably owe their presence in Ireland to "assisted passages."

Most of Barrington's earlier contributions to ornithological literature were published in the pages of the 'Zoologist,' his later ones in the 'Irish Naturalist' and in 'British Birds.' His first paper, on the "Food of the Wood-Pigeon," is to be found in the 'Zoologist' for 1866. He became a Member of the Union in 1881, but to the pages of the 'Ibis' he only sent a few short letters. He threw himself heartily into many enterprises for extending biological knowledge and interest in Ireland, and was one of the founders of the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club and a valued member of the council of the Royal Irish Academy, the Dublin Society, and the Zoological Society of Ireland. To his wide knowledge of natural history there was added a personal charm and a kindly humour which will always make the memory of his friendship a high privilege.

An extensive memoir, with a portrait and a complete bibliography of his scientific writings, for which we are indebted for most of the above information, will be found in the 'Irish Naturalist' for November 1915.

EWEN SOMERLED CAMERON.

We regret to record the death of E. S. Cameron, which took place at the Southern California Sanatorium, Lamanda Park, Pasadena, California, on May 25 last. His death was caused by an abscess on the brain, the result of two accidents when horses fell with him. Cameron, who was born on December 19, 1854, was the son of Allan Gordon Cameron of Barcaldene, Argyllshire. In 1885 he sold his Scottish estates and went to Montana, where he resided for many years at Marsh in Dawson County. He married in 1889 Miss Evelyn Jephson Flower, a sister of the 1st Lord Battersea, but leaves no children.

From his earliest days Cameron was devoted to ornithology, and spent all his spare time in its pursuit. He wrote "The Birds of Custer and Dawson Counties, Montana" for the 'Auk' of 1907 and 1908, and also a number of detailed studies of characteristic species of the Rocky Mountain regions, which were enhanced by the photographic illustrations contributed by his wife, who had a keen sympathetic interest in his ornithological work. To the 'Ibis' he sent only one contribution, "On the Migration of Phalaropes in Montana" (Ibis, 1900, pp. 67-70), but of late years he has written several articles on the birds of Montana for 'Country Life,' illustrated by a fine series of photographs.

He was elected a Member of the Union in 1889, and an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1903 and a Member in 1910.

OTTO HERMAN.

In consequence of the War and the difficulties of seeing foreign journals, we fear that we have overlooked the death of Dr. Otto Herman, which took place at Budapest on December 27, 1914, in the eightieth year of his age.

He was born at Breznóbánya, in Hungary, on June 27, 1835, the son of Karl Herman, a surgeon. Always interested in natural history, and especially in birds, after many youthful vicissitudes he obtained the post of taxidermist in the Museum at Siebenbürgen in 1863. Later on he became interested in politics, and was a member of the Hungarian Parliament, where he was instrumental in passing laws which greatly advanced scientific research in Hungary. In 1877 he founded the official organ of the Royal Hungarian Museum of Natural History, and was its editor for ten years. The second International Ornithological Congress at Budapest in 1891 was almost entirely under his management, and its notable success was entirely due to his power of organization and capacity for work. Herman was also the founder and organizer of the Royal Hungarian Central Bureau for Ornithology, a body primarily founded for the study of the migration of Hungarian birds, and best known, perhaps, through its organ 'Aquila,' of which twenty yearly volumes have been published.

Herman wrote extensively on other subjects, such as the ethnography, politics, folk-lore, and history of his native land. He was a man of great breadth of mind, enormous energy, and an untiring worker, and by his death Hungary loses one of its most illustrious men of science.

We are indebted to the pages of the 'Auk' for most of the facts contained in this notice.

GERALD LEGGE.

It is with great regret that we have to record the loss of another of our best field-naturalists in the Gallipoli Peninsula. Captain the Hon. Gerald Legge, 7th Batt. South Staffordshire Regiment, was killed in action at Suvla Bay on the 9th of August, 1915.

During recent years battle, murder, and sudden death have sadly thinned the ranks of the B. O. U., and prematurely claimed many of our best and bravest. Though we deplore the death of those who have accomplished their life's work and helped to make our Union famous, it is the loss of our

younger members of great promise, cut off in their prime, which must cause more infinite sorrow. To such names as Alexander, Wilson, Barrett-Hamilton, Brabourne, and Woosnam must now be added those of Captain Gerald Legge and Major C. H. T. Whitehead.

Legge was born on the 30th of April, 1882, and educated at St. David's School (Reigate), Eton, and at Christ Church (Oxford). His intense interest and delight in all matters connected with natural history was always an outstanding feature in his character, and soon after he left college he joined the famous Ruwenzori Expedition (1905-1906), his father, Lord Dartmouth, becoming one of its most generous supporters.

Woosnam, the leader of the Expedition, and Legge were at once drawn towards one another, and the meeting of these two kindred spirits led to a close friendship. It is sad to think of both dying in Gallipoli after all the travels they had done together, but such is the fortune of war. During the Ruwenzori trip Legge did admirable work, and obtained examples of quite a number of new and rare species of birds which were not met with by the other members of the Expedition, though all were experts in the work of collecting. Woosnam quickly recognised his extraordinary ability in obtaining species no one else seemed to find, and would frequently undertake the skinning of the birds, so as to leave him free to return to the collecting-ground. Legge possessed some extra sense which enabled him to detect the presence of a rare bird. In addition to this, he was an unusually fine shot, and could make wonderful practice with a .410 collecting-gun, many of his specimens, such as the new dwarf Pipit (*Anthus leggei*)—a very difficult bird to procure—being killed on the wing.

His next journey was to the Malay Peninsula, where he was interested in a rubber estate in Johore, but the climate did not suit him, and after visiting Java for a time he returned to England.

In 1909 Legge again joined Woosnam in an expedition to Lake Ngami, in South Africa, which was reached

after an adventurous journey across the Kalahari Desert (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1912, pp. 355-404). This undertaking proved highly successful, especially as regards the collection of the fishes—which were greatly wanted by the British Museum—from that rapidly disappearing lake. Among the swarms of water-fowl which frequented the extensive reed-beds surrounding Ngami, Legge had ample opportunity of adding examples of several species to his favourite group of birds. The Duck-tribe was his special hobby, and the acquisition of several specimens of the Cape Shoveler, a rare bird in most collections, was especially welcome to him. His Duck collection contained many interesting examples of species in the eclipse-plumage which he had taken special pains to procure.

During the last few years, as County Commissioner for Staffordshire, he had done much good work among the Boy Scouts, and at the commencement of the War he joined the 7th Batt. South Staffordshire Regiment, and went with them to the Dardanelles. Though twice wounded in the shoulder and the thigh on "Hill 70" on the 9th of August, he refused to allow anyone to leave the firing-line and carry him out of danger, and, while mortally wounded, kept shouting encouraging words to his men. They were all devoted to him. A Sergeant of "D" Company writes:—"There are none left who knew him who will ever forget him. He was my ideal type of an English officer and a gentleman . . . he didn't know what fear was."

Gerald Legge was a delightful fellow, full of fun and quiet humour, a great sportsman, and an ideal companion. He died as he had always lived, thinking of others. His many friends are very proud of him, but that does not make the loss easier to bear.

W. R. O.-G.

SIR ARTHUR WILLIAM RÜCKER.

The death of Sir Arthur Rücker, F.R.S., formerly Principal of the University of London and from 1896 to 1901 one of the Secretaries of the Royal Society, took

place at Everington, near Newbury, Berks, on the 1st of November last.

The eldest son of Mr. Daniel H. Rücker, a City merchant residing at Clapham, he was born there in 1848. The family is of German origin. He was educated at Clapham Grammar School and at Brasenose College, Oxford, of which he was subsequently elected a Fellow after taking a first in both the Mathematical and Natural Science Schools.

After holding various teaching posts, Rücker was appointed in 1886 Professor of Physics at the Royal College of Science, which he only relinquished in 1901 when he became Principal of the University of London. Under his guidance the University was transformed from a mere examining body to a real teaching University.

His most important work, done in conjunction with Professor Thorpe, was a magnetic survey of the British Islands. It occupied them over fourteen years.

Sir Arthur Rücker was much interested in ornithology, and was elected a Member of the B. O. U. in 1910. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1889, and received their Royal Medal in 1891. He was President of the British Association in 1901.

CHARLES HUGH TEMPEST WHITEHEAD.

It is with great regret that we have to chronicle the loss of another of our younger and more energetic Members, who was killed in action on the 26th of September last in France.

Major Whitehead was the seventh son of the late Mr. George Whitehead and Mrs. Whitehead, of Deighton Grove, Yorkshire, and entered the Army in 1901. He served in the 56th Punjabi Rifles, of which he was Adjutant in 1909. He was promoted temporary Major in 1914. He had already fought in the Boer War, receiving the Queen's medal and three clasps. At the time of his death he was attached to the Highland Light Infantry, his old regiment, and it was when leading a company of that regiment in

the attack that he fell, mortally wounded, on the very parapet of the trench which was being stormed.

Whitehead's loss is one which will be felt, not only by his personal friends, which included all who knew him, but also by the ornithological world, for he was one of the most accurate and painstaking of field-naturalists, and he was already making his mark in Indian ornithology.

His work on the north-west frontier of India resulted in the extension of the known habitat of many birds, and amongst the most striking of his discoveries was undoubtedly that of the breeding-haunts of that little-known bird *Acrocephalus agricola concinens*, the Chinese race of the Paddy-field Warbler of India. He also discovered, together with its nest and eggs, a new Thrush, *Oreocincla whiteheadi* Baker, at an elevation of some 12,000 feet, in the Khagan valley.

To the 'Ibis' Whitehead contributed two important papers, one on the birds observed by him on the Orange River in South Africa in 1901-2, when stationed on the line of block-houses running along that river between Aliwal North and Norval's Poot during the later part of the Boer War (Ibis, 1903, pp. 222-238). A second paper was that on the birds of Kohat and Kurram, on the borders of Afghanistan, prepared with the assistance of Major H. A. F. Magrath; in this little-known region, at the junction of the Palæarctic and Indian regions, he discovered the very interesting hybrid Bulbuls (*Molpastes intermedius* × *M. leucogenys*): this was also published in the 'Ibis' (1909, pp. 90-134, 214-284, 620-623). Many shorter articles and notices were sent to the 'Journal' of the Bombay Natural History Society and to the 'Bulletin' of the B. O. C.

In person Whitehead was singularly charming, very earnest and thorough in all he undertook. At the same time he had a somewhat reserved manner, and his great modesty prevented him from publishing much of the interesting work he accomplished in the little-known region in which he spent so many years. He was elected a Member of the Union in 1903, and was only 34 years of age when he fell.